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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/49/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 48/81 of 16 December 1993, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", the General Assembly, inter alia, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/48/514 and Add.1), and expressed satisfaction at the growing awareness of the need for joint effort by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the Mediterranean region. It also encouraged the continued widespread support among Mediterranean countries for the convening of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as the ongoing regional consultations to create the appropriate conditions for its convening. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, on 7 February and 3 March 1994, the Secretary-General addressed notes verbale to all Member States requesting their views and suggestions on the question of strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

3. As at 9 August 1994, seven Governments had replied to the notes verbale of the Secretary-General and their responses are reproduced in section III below. Replies and notifications received subsequently will be published as addenda to the present report.

4. A letter dated 26 April 1994 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations transmitted the text of the final statement adopted by the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union at its sixth regular session, held at Tunis on 2 and 3 April 1994 (A/49/137).

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF THE STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION DURING THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5. The First Committee held a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, including item 77 on the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region; the report on its consideration of the item is contained in document A/48/682.

6. The draft resolution on the item (A/C.1/48/L.43) was introduced by Algeria. For the first time five Mediterranean countries in the European Community, viz., France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, joined the traditional sponsors Albania, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia, together with Algeria, to co-sponsor this resolution.

7. The sponsors were convinced of the value of dialogue, coordination and cooperation in developing a spirit of association that would foster the establishment of a shared stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean region in a lasting form. The draft resolution dealt with a broad range of issues

relevant to a greater degree than the resolutions previously adopted on the question. It aimed to give a new impetus to the dynamics of the relationships between Mediterranean countries in order to foster a climate of confidence. The sponsors indicated that they had tried to take into account the positive changes that had occurred in the region. Consequently, the text took note again of all previous initiatives, above all by the Mediterranean countries themselves, to strengthen peace, security and cooperation in the region, while at the same time reaffirming the primary responsibility that rested with the Mediterranean countries. Given the positive spirit that had prevailed during the drafting of the text, the sponsors trusted that it would be adopted without a vote. The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution (A/C.1/48/L.43/Rev.1) without a vote as resolution 48/81.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

GREECE*

[Original: English]

[13 May 1994]

1. The European Union wishes to recall its common reply contained in document A/48/514/Add.1, in which the main elements of its policy on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region are set forth. The 12 members of the Union reiterate their views expressed therein and draw the attention to some additional points.

2. The magnitude of the multiple and complex Mediterranean challenges strengthens the conviction of the European Union that there is a need to address them within a multidisciplinary approach that covers all aspects in which cooperation and security in the area could be separated. Recent events with the Mediterranean as their scenario make dialogue even more necessary than at any time in the past. Notwithstanding the vacillations of the process and the difficulties which it has encountered, the advantages of dialogue have been demonstrated in the Middle East. The Union is confident that the promising prospects in the Middle East will foster a new climate of understanding among all States in the Mediterranean region.

3. On the basis of the principles enunciated in the Declaration of the European Council of Ministers on relations between Europe and the Maghreb, issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992 (A/47/310, annex) and evoked in the aforementioned document A/48/514/Add.1 (regarding international law, human rights and the establishment of democratic systems and tolerance between cultures and religions), the European Union reaffirms its will to structure regional cooperation with the countries on the southern shore in accordance with specific and reciprocal interest in a number of areas in which joint management

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* On behalf of the States members of the European Union.

of affairs makes our common efforts more profitable in terms of stability. Those are, inter alia, migration, environment, communications, food self-sufficiency and cultural dialogue. Indeed, the effectiveness of this interaction depends on the establishment of a clear agenda in which greater cooperation also has a place with a view to combating terrorism, deemed by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/81 to be one of the most serious threats in the region.

4. Although the foregoing, duly specified, may enable an overall project for cooperation to be outlined, the European Union nevertheless continues to believe firmly in the need for a parallel advance in the field of security. Therefore it trusts that progress will be consolidated in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The European Union calls upon all States in the region that are parties to the Treaty to give their full support to the unlimited and unconditional extension of the Treaty at the 1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. The European Union renews its call to all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty.

5. Due ratification by those States that have signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction is essential, as well as the signing thereof by those that have not yet done so. In the same way, the European Union deems it important that all States in the region cooperate for the full and effective implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In this respect the European Union welcomes Algeria's decision to accede to the latter Treaty and encourages that country to enter into the corresponding full scope safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency as laid down by the provisions of the aforementioned Treaty.

6. In the same way, the European Union believes that the commitment to non-proliferation should also be expressed through adherence to the principles and guidelines of the different regimes that combat the dissemination of equipment and technology suitable for manufacturing weapons of mass destruction. The adoption of such a pattern of conduct would undoubtedly contribute to making the Mediterranean region more homogeneous - and therefore safer.

7. The Union reiterates the importance it attaches to transparency as a means for promoting regional and global confidence. Therefore, it urges all the countries of the region to send data on transfers of conventional weapons to the United Nations register. It likewise indicates the Twelve's position in favour of extending this information to include military holdings and procurement through national production, as well as relevant policies, as specified in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991. In the same way, the European Union calls upon all States of the region to participate in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures.

8. The Union considers that the contacts between the relevant multilateral institutions for European security and the countries south of the Mediterranean constitute a contribution of outstanding importance for stability and security throughout the region. In particular, the dialogue with the Maghreb countries that is being conducted by the Western European Union (WEU) has been developed at a high level under the mandate granted by the WEU Council of Ministers held at Rome on 19 May 1993. Under this mandate, and on the basis of exploratory contacts that have taken place since 1992, the WEU presidency and Secretary-General held a first round of separate bilateral meetings with the ambassadors of Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia at Brussels in November 1993. These meetings will be repeated at six monthly intervals, their main purpose being the exchange of information and opinions on current issues of common interest related to security in the Mediterranean. On this part, the WEU Institute of Security Studies plans to hold a new seminar in June 1994 in Paris on security issues in the Mediterranean, with the participation of experts and representatives of the Maghreb countries similar to those held at Madrid in October 1992 and Rome in March 1993.

9. From a general institutional standpoint, different initiatives have been taken to provide a framework for comprehensive dialogue between both sides of the Mediterranean. Further to the dialogue institutionalized, following the renewed Mediterranean policy, the European Union considers that, far from being mutually exclusive, initiatives such as the "Five plus Five" dialogue, the Mediterranean Forum and others can reinforce each other and become part of the same evolutionary process, to which the continued efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to associate the non-participating Mediterranean States with its work can also contribute. To this end, the European Union recalls the decision of the Committee of Senior Officials of 3 March 1994 to invite Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia to participate regularly in the councils of ministers and the review conferences of CSCE. The European Union continues to note the support for the holding of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as for the regional consultations that have taken place.

10. It is the view of the European Union that incorporating positive developments made in subregional forums such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean could constitute a structure in which the efforts of the coastal States to provide a solid basis for this common aspiration for stability, security and cooperation could be crystallized.

HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[7 June 1994]

Hungary reiterates its support of General Assembly resolution 48/81 concerning the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. Hungary will continue to encourage and support initiatives by the Mediterranean countries, including the convening of a conference on security and cooperation, aimed at adopting measures that could promote confidence and

security building as well as disarmament, thus strengthening stability in the Mediterranean region.

MONACO

[Original: French]

[27 April 1994]

The Government of Monaco would, in principle, envisage with interest the holding of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. However, it will not be able definitively to support such an initiative until the theme, agenda and functional modalities of the conference have been established.

PANAMA

[Original: Spanish]

[17 June 1994]

1. The Government of Panama is of the view that the various meetings, conferences and symposia conducted by the General Assembly with all the interested parties have helped to eliminate the causes of tension; for this reason we hope that dialogue and permanent consultation combined with good will on the part of the interested parties will quickly lead to a solution as provided for in the Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

2. We reiterate that the policy of dialogue and permanent consultation should be the guiding principle of all the interested parties, and these will surely contribute to the elimination of the points of conflict, so that peace and security in the region may become a reality.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Original: Russian]

[27 May 1994]

1. The strengthening of security and stability in the Mediterranean region is, in the view of the Russian Federation, one of the important and complex goals of world policy. The uniqueness of this goal derives above all from the geographical situation of the region, at the junction of three continents - Europe, Africa and Asia, and also of the Christian and Muslim cultures. Currently, the Mediterranean region is experiencing the contradictory influence of processes taking place in adjoining areas, although it could and should set a positive example of how to achieve cooperation between different countries and civilizations.

2. In our view, the situation in the Mediterranean region is now characterized by two opposing tendencies. On the one hand, all-European cooperation is steadily and progressively developing, and with the cessation of global confrontation, naval rivalry among the great Powers in the region has ended. On the other, a whole range of alarming or threatening factors are exerting a negative influence. Among them: the acute crisis in the Balkans, the still smouldering hotbed of the Cyprus problem, the persistence - despite the appreciable progress made - of the Arab-Israeli confrontation and the lack of settlement of the situation around the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. These sources of conflict are giving rise to a substantial growth of extremist fundamentalist sentiments in a number of countries of North Africa, and problems of terrorism and illegal drug trafficking. As in the past, the challenges to security in the Mediterranean region are not only in the political sphere. They also derive from the unequal economic development of European and Arab countries and environmental ills.

3. The Russian Federation, which is situated in direct proximity to the Mediterranean region, advocates that increased attention should be paid to the problems of that region by both regional and non-regional States. Without belittling the significance of the efforts to settle conflicts, we propose that greater emphasis should be placed on preventive measures. This applies, in particular, to stopping the internal instability already noticeable in Algeria from spreading beyond its borders. It is also important to promote confidence-building measures among all the Mediterranean countries and to develop regional cooperation through a strengthening of integrationist ties among their economies.

4. In the view of the Russian Federation, the United Nations could make a more substantive contribution to solving Mediterranean problems. The United Nations is already playing an important role in the settlement in the former Yugoslavia and in general in overcoming instability in the Balkans. It is time, now, to achieve a breakthrough in resolving the Cyprus problem on the basis of the principles repeatedly proclaimed in the Security Council resolutions. Russia is consistently in favour of a greater role of the Organization in achieving progress in a Middle East settlement and in developing multilateral cooperation for the solution of the general problems - military-political, economic and humanitarian - in the Middle East. In the long term, the United Nations should pay particular attention to the problem of the arms race in this region, which is supersaturated with weapons.

5. The idea of convening a conference on security and cooperation among the countries of the Mediterranean region should be considered anew, taking into account current realities. The Russian Federation is prepared to participate actively in the consideration of that idea and, if consensus is achieved, in assisting in preparations for such a conference. At the practical level, a multilateral dialogue should be undertaken on issues which all the countries of the region are prepared to take up in the spheres of economic, environmental, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

6. In this context, it is worth considering the proposal by the King of Morocco to hold a conference at the level of foreign ministers on key problems of the Mediterranean region, in which all countries which are interested in the

affairs of the region could participate. We believe that the process could be begun with a meeting of senior officials.

7. In general we are in favour of closely coordinating the efforts of the participants in the Mediterranean process with general trends in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Taking into account the desire of the Mediterranean States to establish closer relations with CSCE, the Russian Federation believes that it would be useful for these countries to participate in the discussions in the permanent committee of CSCE on the problems of security in the Mediterranean region.

8. In the area of efforts to resolve environmental protection problems in the Mediterranean region, consideration could be given to the question of developing environmental monitoring activities within the Economic Commission for Europe for the regions of southern Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa.

9. Recognizing the indivisibility of European and international security, the Russian Federation will continue to promote steadfastly the strengthening of stability in the Mediterranean region and the transformation of that region into a zone of multilateral international cooperation.

TUNISIA

[Original: French]

[5 July 1994]

1. It is only from the viewpoint of geologists that the Mediterranean has separated Europe from Africa and Asia since the tertiary era. From the viewpoint of historians and geographers, it constitutes the primeval waters that inseminated a number of civilizations and the link between them. The Mediterranean is also a sea whose shores witnessed the flourishing of the three monotheistic religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism, as a supplementary bond among peoples.

2. Today, however, it must be noted that, in the Mediterranean, there is no lack of problems and threats:

(a) The gaps in development between the two shores of the Mediterranean, measured by purchasing power, are very wide;

(b) Urbanization is barely under control, with the inevitable result of rural exodus and recurrent criminality; the environment is mismanaged, and the demographic bulge in the south increases even more the migratory flows and the unemployment that has already reached alarming proportions in certain southern countries.

3. The persistence of so many open or latent problems and conflicts as well as of other demographic, economic, cultural or political disparities makes the Mediterranean imbalance the greatest ever known in the history of mankind.

4. The conjunction of so many disparities and imbalances may be the reason for unprecedented crises and conflicts in the region.

5. However, whatever the stakes, conflicts and disparities, Tunisia believes that it will be possible to revitalize the Mediterranean by pacifying it.

6. That is why Tunisia has called for a Mediterranean dialogue with a view to ensuring regional multilateral, multidimensional and multiform regional cooperation. That means establishing what President Ben Ali called in his 1993 address before the European Parliament a "contract for co-development and partnership" linking the countries of the northern shore to those of the southern shore in order to make the Mediterranean a pole of development solidarity.

7. Tunisia believes, however, that the concept of security constitutes the keystone of any process of development, cooperation and democracy in the Mediterranean. Security is also closely linked to economic and social development as well as stability, both in the Mediterranean, as a regional space, and within each of the riparian countries.

8. The establishment of peace and security in the Mediterranean region means the settlement of conflicts and easing of tensions, especially in the eastern Mediterranean. Whether it is a matter of establishing a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East, easing tensions between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and certain Western countries or putting a stop to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of the consecration of the legitimate rights of the Bosnian people, all the efforts of the Mediterranean countries and the international community should be aimed at accelerating the processes of settling these conflicts on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions adopted by its principal organs.

9. The evolution of the geopolitical situation in the Mediterranean region should encourage the riparian countries to increase their efforts for disarmament in order to release additional resources for the financing of development projects. Disarmament, in turn, makes possible the establishment or reinforcement of the climate of trust among the Mediterranean countries that is essential for stability in the region.

10. Another important factor in relation to the re-establishment of the climate of trust is the question of controlling the phenomenon of religious fundamentalism which, through its terrorist manifestations, constitutes the threat to the stability of States, democracy and human rights in the region.

11. In addition to security or development questions, Tunisia believes that the cultural dimension of inter-Mediterranean relations is basic. Particular attention should be accorded to this aspect by strengthening a sense of belonging to the same geo-cultural and civilizational zones. The development of a Mediterranean cultural feeling promotes the establishment of better understanding and more active solidarity among the peoples of that region.

12. The strengthening of democracy and respect for human rights in the broadest accepted sense constitutes a factor for progress in the region. Nevertheless,

each Mediterranean country must choose the rhythm most suited to its economic and socio-political context.

13. Furthermore, particular attention should be given to two sectors that are vital for the region and also closely linked, namely, tourism and the environment. Tourism, in addition to its economic input to the Mediterranean countries, is also an appreciable factor for rapprochement between peoples. Safeguarding the Mediterranean, a closed sea which is overexploited, saturated and particularly exposed to pollution, is the collective regional responsibility of the Mediterranean countries, which have a moral obligation to transmit this common heritage in good condition to future generations.

14. Tunisia is well aware of the interest that is accorded by the United Nations, regional associations, intergovernmental groups and non-governmental organizations regarding the Mediterranean in the context of sectoral or multidisciplinary meetings. It is equally convinced of the necessity of establishing a permanent mechanism (a council on the Mediterranean) with a permanent secretariat entrusted with the task of ensuring the necessary coordination between the various initiatives and forums relating to the Mediterranean that could serve as a place for dialogue and reflection for the conception of great trans-Mediterranean projects of an industrial and cultural nature for integration and stabilization.

UKRAINE

[Original: Russian]

[20 June 1994]

1. Ukraine considers that confidence- and security-building measures in the Mediterranean basin are a basic prerequisite for stability, peace and security in Europe and the Middle East. The Government of Ukraine supports the efforts of the countries and international organizations concerned to achieve stability in the Mediterranean region through the development of political, ecological and cultural cooperation. As a Black Sea country, Ukraine is interested in the successful conduct of the peace process in that region.

2. The expansion of economic cooperation in the Black Sea region is a key confidence-building factor among the countries of the Mediterranean basin. The development of commercial and economic links, the promotion of investment in neighbouring countries, the establishment of most-favoured-nation arrangements in trade and participation in joint economic projects are conducive to enhanced economic interdependence among States, which objectively reduces the danger of military conflict.

3. The President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, considering that economic cooperation is impossible in the absence of a climate of trust among the States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region and without ensuring stability and security in the region, and pursuing the aims of the countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region, introduced the "Economic cooperation through confidence-building measures" initiative at the second session of the

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region, held at Kiev on 30 November 1993.

4. The initiative includes a proposal for the preparation of a series of measures which were described in the draft versions of the following documents:

(a) "Statement by the member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region concerning confidence-building measures";

(b) "Memorandum of the countries concerning the non-use of naval forces against each other";

(c) "Agreement of the member States concerning the conditions governing the conduct of naval exercises in the Black Sea";

(d) Comprehensive plan of "Confidence-building measures by the member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region in the military and political fields", prepared in the light of the experience of European countries in the implementation of the provisions of the 1992 Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine prepared the draft versions of the above-mentioned documents and is seeking agreement thereon with the countries of the Black Sea basin.

6. In its foreign policy, Ukraine takes the position that the problems of the Black Sea basin must be addressed on the basis of the principles of good-neighbourliness, cooperation and respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the generally accepted norms of international law.

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III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

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LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[17 October 1994]

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahirya welcomes the continuous interest accorded by the General Assembly to the strengthening of peace and security in the Mediterranean region and urges the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this subject, particularly in relation to the closing down of foreign military bases in the region and the withdrawal of foreign military fleets therefrom. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that the continued existence of such bases and fleets constitutes a danger to the peace and security of the States of the region and prevents the provision of security for their peoples. Moreover, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that Israeli nuclear armament is a major factor in the insecurity and growing tension in the region. It believes that true security in the Mediterranean region and making it a region free of weapons of mass destruction would be achieved by Israeli adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its acceptance of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system, with the destruction, under international supervision, of all the nuclear weapons in its possession, estimated to comprise more than 200 warheads.

2. The General Assembly in its resolutions has reaffirmed the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in upholding and promoting peace and security in the region. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya endorses the view expressed by the General Assembly and reiterates its readiness to continue action in this context by encouraging the dialogue between the competent groups of the States of the region, including the "five plus five" group and the "twelve plus five" group, and through the coordination of efforts to achieve greater cooperation in the field of economic development, the transfer of technology, the combating of drought and desertification and the protection of the marine environment and outer space from pollution, as well as efforts to promote cultural relations and encourage rapprochement. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that meetings of the groups of States of the region or at other levels should be attended by all States members of such groups and that none of the States should be marginalized or disregarded, if security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region is to be achieved collectively and if their objectives are to be attained, namely, to serve the peoples of the region and protect their stability.

3. In accordance with its positive position regarding the strengthening of cooperation in the Mediterranean region, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has participated in action to strengthen and uphold relations between the countries of the region on the basis of the principles of independence, regional integrity, mutual respect and non-intervention in internal affairs. It will strive with all its capabilities for the achievement of economic complementarity between the States of the southern shore of the Mediterranean, as an initial step towards more comprehensive complementarity between the States of the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has taken many steps in this direction, but its efforts have been hindered by the sanctions imposed on the Libyan people for nearly three years, which have resulted in many human tragedies and overwhelming economic losses.

4. It is cause for concern that there are indications that there is a premeditated intention to maintain the sanctions as long as possible, because, if the purpose of these sanctions was compliance with the demands of the Security Council in its resolution 731 (1992), Libya has cooperated in every way to achieve such compliance. It has shown flexibility and has accepted proposals designed to achieve full compliance, in particular the recent proposal submitted by the League of Arab States calling for the trial of the two men suspected of involvement in the Pan American flight 103 incident by a Scottish court, under Scottish law and at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Libya has also cooperated with the French magistrate entrusted with investigating the UTA flight incident. All this should be taken into consideration, and efforts should be made to find a swift and just resolution of the dispute between Libya, on the one hand, and France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, on the other, that would lead to the complete lifting of the sanctions, because their continuation will add to the accumulated economic problems and, consequently, threaten peace and security in the region; the impact of these sanctions has not been confined to the Libyan people alone but has extended also to Libya's neighbours and the Mediterranean region as a whole.